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KINGSBRIDGE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1962

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KINGSBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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ENGINEER, SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Quay House, Kingsbridge, S. Devon.

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KINGSBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1962

Medical Officer of Health : R. B. WALKER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health : W. H. COWPER,

M.B., B.CH., B.A.O.

Engineer, Surveyor and Public Health Inspector : L. J. HILL,

A.M.I.MUN.E., M.R.S.H.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present the Report on the health of the district for the year 1962.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in Acres)—1,147 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Population—The Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population—3,210.

Number of inhabited houses at 31st March, 1962, according to the Rate Book—1,077.

Number of unoccupied houses—14.

Rateable Value as at 1st April, 1962—£50,399.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£204.

Kingsbridge has been, and is, the centre of the area of South Devon known as the South Hams.

This is a coastal area of great and outstanding natural beauty, much used by people from the rest of the country as a holiday area. The unsullied scenery, unpolluted air, freedom from the scenes and frustrations which one is apt to associate with big conurbations or industrial areas, and the peace of what is so far a largely unspoiled countryside and coast, all in my view tend to give conditions highly favourable to a healthy life of at least Biblical span.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births :

		Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	.....	41	23	18
Illegitimate	.....	1	—	1
		—	—	—
		42	23	19

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : 13.40

Still Births	Nil
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Deaths	47	19	28
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Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : 14.64

Deaths from Maternal causes (heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) : Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :

All Infants per 1,000 live births	.....	.....	.....	23.81
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	.....			24.39
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	.....	.....	.....	9
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)		.....	.....	Nil

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M.	F.
1. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	—	1
2. Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8. Measles	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Disease	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	—	—
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	1	—
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	2
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	—
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	4	2
15. Leukaemia, Alekaemia	—	—
16. Diabetes	—	—
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	1	4
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	1	1
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	—	—
20. Other Heart Diseases	3	6
21. Other Circulatory Disease	—	1
22. Influenza	—	—
23. Pneumonia	1	1
24. Bronchitis	2	2
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	—	1
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	—
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	1
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	2
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	—	—
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations	1	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	2	3
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1
34. All other Accidents	—	—
35. Suicide	—	—
36. Homicide and Operations of War	—	—
	19	28

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

The Public Health Officers of the Authority are a Medical Officer of Health (also Medical Officer of Health of Plympton Rural District, Kingsbridge Rural District and Salcombe Urban District).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (occasional).

One full-time Engineer, Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

Laboratory Facilities. The Public Health Laboratory Service provides a service at the South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, Plymouth, for the investigation of communicable diseases and the examination of milk, water supplies, ice cream and foodstuffs, etc.

Personal Health Services. The Devon County health handbook gives details of the various services provided in the district by the County.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

During the Year 1962.

Disease	Total Cases		
	Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Measles	2	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
	2	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1962.

Age Periods.	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 years and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply.

The water supply remains the responsibility of the South Devon Water Board and I have no useful comment to make on the supply or purity, both of which are highly satisfactory.

The central government policy of re-grouping water undertakings gradually moved nearer to fulfilment during the year, and we now know that the existing Water Board will be very much enlarged and become the South West Devon Water Board in 1963.

This will not affect the sources of supply now used for this area, and I do not feel that, from the public health point of view, much will be noticed.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The small extension to which I referred in my report for 1961 was completed in this year, and not only catered for the rather small housing estate for the Council, but made provision for further extensions being planned.

Private schemes for new housing development were either approved or being considered, and all of these will necessarily require new sewers and connections to the existing trunk system. It is not anticipated that any of these will make any great difference to the main system.

Some information about the new type of sewage disposal machine which we went to Canterbury to see in 1961 was forthcoming in 1962, but I regret to say it was disappointing. It appears to be all a question of scale. The machine seems to work admirably in prototype form but when enlarged for use at a normal disposal works give rise to technical problems which appear either to make it uneconomical or to be so far incapable of solution.

I intend to keep this matter under review to see if the machines can become a practical proposition.

Housing.

The roads and services for housing scheme 10 were completed in the late spring and the house building contractors started work in July.

As a result work restarted on the clearance programme and at the end of the year eight houses in Ebrington Street had been completely dealt with. Seven of the houses were the subjects of undertakings not to re-let for human habitation and the eighth was to be retained and repaired to modern standards.

The programme will continue in the coming year and more results will be apparent in future reports.

Public Cleansing.

I have no need to comment on the system of refuse collection and disposal ; it remains good from both aspects.

FOOD

1. The numbers of types of food premises in the area are as follows :

Greengrocer, 5 ; Grocer, 13 ; Butcher, 5 ; Restaurants, 5 ; Wet Fish Shops, 2 ; Fried Fish Shops, 2 ; Baker, 4.

In addition to the above, one person maintains premises for the reception, cleaning and preparation for sale of wet fish and thereafter sells from a properly constructed vehicle.

2. The number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, is as follows :

Manufacture of Icecream	1
Storage of Icecream for sale	27
Preparation or manufacture of Sausages, etc.	4
Number of Dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1954	3

3. The number of inspections of food premises in the year was 29. This number does not include re-visits where found necessary. The general standard of food premises in the town remained highly satisfactory.

4. The Method of Disposal of Condemned Food : In the rare cases where large amounts are required to be disposed of, this is done through a recognised firm specialising in the preparation of fertilizers, etc. In other cases, goods are removed by the refuse collection gang and buried at the disposal site.

5. It was not necessary during the year for any special examination of a stock or consignment of food to be undertaken.

It is normal to inspect stocks of canned goods at grocers' and other premises and this results in large numbers of all varieties of canned goods being condemned.

In 1962 the number of cans of food condemned was 148.

APPENDIX.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part :

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	241	—	—	693	—	—
Number inspected	208	—	—	622	—	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned			Nil			
Carcases of which some parts or organ was condemned	8			6		
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease, etc.	3.36			0.9		
Tuberculosis only						
			Nil			
Cysticercosis						
			Nil			

NUISANCES, Etc.

Number of complaints received :

(a) alleging nuisances	18
(b) alleging housing defects	209
(c) other complaints	21
Nuisances proved	4
Minor housing repairs dealt with	197
Other complaints remedied	5
Informal letters sent	4
Statutory Notices	0
Total number of inspections in connection with erection of new houses and conversions	137
Total number of inspections in connection with Public Health	203

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948.

PART 1 OF THE ACT.

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

Premises. (1)	No. in Register. (3)	Inspections. (4)	Numbers of Written Notices. (5)	Occupiers Prosec-d. (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 i enforced by the Local Authority	43	21	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	48	23	—	—

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

R. B. WALKER,

October, 1963.

Medical Officer of Health.

